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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Turkey at the table of giants - Hurriyet
Turks abducted in Iraq for 'serving Americans' - Sabah
Turkish-Israeli crisis growing - Milliyet
UN decides to end Iraq occupation by January 2006 - Milliyet
US Attorney General's report: Torture may be legitimate -
Aksam
DEP lawmakers appeal for release - Hurriyet
Spain, Belgium, Italy launch joint Al-Qaeda operation -
Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

G-8 gives Turkey leading role for regional reforms - Zaman
Al-Qaeda crackdown in Europe - Radikal
Qaeda hunt in Europe - Cumhuriyet
NATO Summit detentions in Istanbul - Cumhuriyet
UNSC denies autonomy for Iraqi Kurds - Zaman
Turks become new target of Iraq resistance - Cumhuriyet
OIC Istanbul summit to discuss Cyprus, Iraq, Palestine -
Yeni Safak
Heavy toll in Iraq: 15 killed - Yeni Safak
Resisters intensify attacks in Iraq - Radikal

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan to G-8 Summit: Before setting off to attend the G-8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia, PM Erdogan said on Tuesday that reform efforts in the Middle East are doomed to fail if they are imposed from the outside and if the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq problem are not resolved. On Wednesday, Erdogan will join the G-8 discussions on the Greater Middle East initiative as a 'democratic partner.' President Bush is planning to make Turkey the co-chair of the 'democratic assistance dialogue group' within the framework of the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative, "Hurriyet" reports. The G-8 will give Turkey a pioneering role in the regional reform process, "Zaman" comments.

Ankara summons diplomats from Israel: Turkey has summoned its ambassador from Tel Aviv and consul general from Jerusalem to Ankara for consultations with regard to recent developments in the Middle East. The Israeli press regards the move as a protest over Israel's Palestine policy. However, diplomatic sources from both countries deny press reports about a deterioration of relations between the two countries. The MFA said the diplomats are returning to Ankara for 'routine discussions.' "Cumhuriyet" regards the move as Ankara's message to Arab countries that Turkey will pursue balanced policies in the Middle East. Israeli Ambassador to Ankara, Pinhas Avivi, acknowledged some 'minor' problems, but voiced no doubt about the friendship between the two countries.

Turks kidnapped in Iraq: Iraqi insurgents abducted seven more Turks for 'serving the US in Iraq,' papers report. The Iraqi hostage-takers threatened to kill the Turks unless Ankara denounces the occupation of Iraq. Analysts told "Cumhuriyet" that Turks in Iraq were kidnapped following some recent Turkish government statements in support of the

US Greater Middle East initiative. A civil war is looming in Iraq, and Western businessmen are leaving the country, according to "Cumhuriyet."

Increased security for NATO Summit: Police detained 25 journalists from pro-Kurdish media on Tuesday, as Turkey stepped up security for the Istanbul NATO summit in late June, which will be attended by President Bush and other world leaders. Police raided the Istanbul offices of the pro-Kurdish Dicle News Agency and "Ozgur Halk" magazine, seizing computers and other records on the grounds that the media groups belong to an illegal organization. Police also raided an undisclosed number of other media outlets, associations and private homes.

EDITORIAL OPINION: G-8 at Sea Island

"Is Turkey the Trojan Horse?"

Semih Idiz commented in the mass appeal Aksam (6/9): "It is obvious that the general opinion in the Arab world for the Greater Middle East Project first, and then for the Broader Great Middle East and Northern Africa Region Project, is rather negative. People who follow the Arab press, are well aware of this opinion. Washington's efforts to include Turkey to this initiative as the 'Democratic Partner', caused Arab world to consider Turkey as the 'Trojan Horse' (During 2002 Copenhagen summit, US' support for Turkey's EU entrance, had made the EU to believe that the US was pushing the Trojan Horse through the gates of Europe!). In another way, Arab officials who don't trust Turkey fully because of its close relations with Israel, now, consider Turkey as the US' tool in the region. In short, it should be discussed, how much Turkey benefits from the US presentation of it as the 'Strategic Partner' to the EU and the 'Democratic Partner' to the Arab world. But, it should always be remembered that Turkey has a strategic importance for the west. And with its parliamentary democracy, Turkey is the model for the region. Therefore, whoever calls Turkey as the US' Trojan Horse, they either try to keep Turkey itself, or the political paradigm it represents, in a certain distance."

EDELMAN